

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17199 241000Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----035552 241003Z /11
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4648

S E C R E T MOSCOW 17199

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PDIP, UR, US
SUBJECT: WARNING TO SOVIETS REGARDING POSSIBLE ACTION
AGAINST RAY SMITH

REF: MOSCOW 17141

1. RAY SMITH IS A KEY OFFICER OF OUR POLITICAL SECTION,
PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF HIS EXTENSIVE BUT DISCREET
CONTACTS WITH THE REFUSENIK AND DISSIDENT COMMUNITIES.
WHILE I DOUBT THAT THE ACCESS INCIDENT JULY 20 WAS
STAGED IN ORDER TO COMPROMISE SMITH, I AM
CONCERNED THAT THE KGB AND HARDLINERS IN THE MFA MAY
SEIZE UPON THE INCIDENT AS AN EXCUSE TO LIMIT HIS
EFFECTIVENESS BY INTENSIFIED HARASSMENT OR EVEN
EXPULSION. IT HAS BECOME CRYSTAL CLEAR OVER THE LAST
TWO YEARS THAT THE KGB IS ANXIOUS TO BREAK TIES
BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICERS AND UNOFFICIAL SOVIET CONTACTS,
AND WILL GO TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO DO SO. IF THEY
MOUNT A CONTINUING OPERATION AGAINST SMITH, THIS WILL
CONSTITUTE ANOTHER CHAPTER IN A SERIES OF VILLIFICATIONS
OF OUR SPECIALISTS IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WHICH
EXTENDS OVER AT LEAST THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

2. I THEREFORE BELIEVE WE MUST BE PREPARED TO MAKE
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VERY CLEAR TO THE SOVIET SIDE THAT THE COST TO IT OF
PNG ACTION AGAINST SMITH WOULD BE GREATER THAN A
"ONE-FOR-ONE" RETALIATION. THIS WOULD REQUIRE A
BLUNT ORAL STATEMENT, BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND IN MOSCOW,
ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

--ON JULY 20 SMITH IN FACT DID NOTHING MORE THAN

ATTEMPT TO PROTECT HIMSELF FROM AN UNPROVOKED AND
ENTIRELY UNWARRANTED PHYSICAL ATTACK BY A UNIFORMED
OFFICIAL OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT;

--THERE MUST BE NO DOUBT THAT ANY ATTEMPT BY THE
SOVIET SIDE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST SMITH WILL BE
CONSIDERED AS A GRATUITOUS PROVOCATION AND WILL
THEREFORE BE VIEWED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
WITH THE UTMOST GRAVITY;

--EXPULSION OF MR. SMITH FROM THE SOVIET UNION
WILL RESULT IN APPROPRIATE COUNTER-ACTION BY THE
UNITED STATES, AND ANY FURTHER ACTION BY THE SOVIET
SIDE WILL RESULT IN A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE GROSS
DISPROPORTIONS IN THE PRESENT STAFFING PATTERN OF
THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AS CONTRASTED TO THE
PRESENT STAFFING PATTERN OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN
MOSCOW. TOON

SECRET

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